This week in therapeutics

Indication	Target/marker/ pathway	Summary	Licensing status	Publication and contact information
Cancer				
Various cancer indications	Matrix metalloproteinase 7 (MMP7); VEGF-A; VEGF; fms-related tyrosine kinase 1 (vascular endothelial growth factor/vascular permeability factor receptor) (VEGFR1; FLT1)	<i>In vitro</i> and cell culture studies suggest that MMP7 could be targeted to decrease angiogenesis in cancer. MMP7 is overexpressed in many aggressive tumors. <i>In vitro</i> studies showed that MMP7 could degrade VEGFR1 obtained from human umbilical vein endothelial cells. In assays of angiogenesis, treatment with MMP7 blocked the inhibitory effect of VEGFR1 on VEGF activity, which released VEGF and triggered angiogenesis, compared with what was seen in untreated controls. Next steps could include testing the effect of MMP7 modulation in animal models of tumor vascularization. SciBX 1(44); doi:10.1038/scibx.2008.1072 Published online Dec. 11, 2008	Patent and licensing status undisclosed	Ito, T. <i>et al. Blood</i> ; published online Oct. 30, 2008; doi:10.1182/blood-2008-08-172742 Contact: Atsushi Ochiai, National Cancer Center Hospital East, Kashiwa, Chiba, Japan e-mail: aochiai@east.ncc.go.jp